

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 EB-11 SCEM-02 INT-08

COME-00 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-10 PM-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 L-03 H-02

CIEP-02 AID-20 TRSE-00 FRB-02 XMB-07 RSR-01 /174 W
----- 099131

R 031959 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7333

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 2338

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, CH, EC

SUBJECT: REPORT OF POSSIBLE PRC OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION
WITH CANADIAN AND US ASSISTANCE

1. LOCAL OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR CAYMAN CONSORTIUM (CITY
INVESTING, NEW YORK, MAJOR PARTNER; SOUTHERN UNION
PRODUCTS, DALLAS; CAYMAN CORPORATION, CALIFORNIA)
INFORMED EMBOFF THAT HE HAD BEEN DIRECTED BY RANKING
GOE OFFICIAL TO FLY GROUP OF VISITING PRC JOURNALISTS
TO CAYMAN CONCESSION FOR OBSERVATION AND BRIEFING. HE
CONSIDERED THIS ORDER UNUSUAL SINCE GOE HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY
MADE SUCH PEREMPTORY DEMANDS FOR CHINESE OR OTHER VISITING
GROUPS. FURTHERMORE, CAYMAN CONCESSION NOW INACTIVE, WITH
NO EXPLORATORY WORK OR DEVELOPMENT DRILLING TAKING PLACE
WHILE LARGER NEARBY TEXACO- GULF CONCESSIONS IN PRODUCTION
WITH ACTIVE EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UNDER WAY.

2. SAME SOURCE REPORTED HE HAD RECENTLY WORKED IN ECUADOR
WITH CANADIAN WHO STATED HE HAD RECENTLY BEEN EMPLOYED BY
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CANADIAN COMPANY DOING OFFSHORE GEOPHYSICAL WORK IN PRC WATERS.

3. CAYMAN MANAGER STATED IN ADDITION THAT HE HAD HEARD RECENTLY IN DALLAS (PRESUMABLY AT SOUTHERN UNION OFFICE) THAT PRC WAS UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE COLLECTED SUFFICIENT GEOPHYSICAL INFORMATION ON CERTAIN OFFSHORE AREAS TO BE PREPARED TO REQUEST INTERNATIONAL BIDS FOR EXPLORATION OR DEVELOPMENT. ROYAL BANK OF CANADA WAS REPORTED EITHER THE SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION OR WAS TO BE REQUESTED BY U. S. FIRM TO CHECK OUT POSSIBILITY OF PRC SOLICITATION OF BIDS. SOURCE SPECULATED THAT PRC VISITORS' INTEREST IN CAYMAN OPERATIONS MIGHT BE RELATED TO PARTNER' S DEMONSTRATION OF INTEREST IN PRC ACREAGE.
BURNS

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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HONG KONG
OTTAWA
SECSTATE WASHDC
SEOUL
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